

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 USBERL 00189 251123Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-02 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-12 /084 W
-----001079 252146Z /41

R 250943Z JAN 78
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6104
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USBERLIN 0189

E O 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV PINT, WB
SUBJ: STOBBE'S ANNUAL PRESS CONFERENCE

REFS: (A) USBER 135; (B) USBER 118; (C) USBER 166

SUMMARY: AT ANNUAL PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 18, IN ADDITION
TO CRITICIZING GDR REFUSAL TO PERMIT HELMUT KOHL TO VISIT
EAST BERLIN (REFTEL), GOVERNING STOBBE SPEND THREE
QUARTERS OF AN HOUR ALTERNATELY ANSWERING AND DODGING QUESTIONS
ON HIS COMMUNAL POLICIES FOR BERLIN. HE WAS PARTICULARLY PRESSED
ON SUBJECT OF CDU DEMAND THAT 3-PARTY TALKS BE HELD TO WORK
OUT A COMMON POLICY FOR "BASIC" BERLIN ISSUES. STOBBE HAS
REPORTEDLY NOW AGREED TO SUCH TALKS. END SUMMARY.

1. ON JANUARY 18 GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE HELD AN HOUR LONG
PRESS CONFERENCE AT RATHAUS SCHOENEBERG, A TRADITIONAL POLITICAL
KICK OFF FOR THE NEW YEAR IN BERLIN. THE GDR REFUSAL TO ALLOW
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 USBERL 00189 251123Z

HELMUT KOHL TO ENTER EAST BERLIN 3 DAYS EARLIER (REFTEL
B) PROVIDED THE ISSUE OF MAJOR TOPICAL INTEREST, AND
SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED THE MOST PRESS COVERAGE. AS RE-
PORTED REFTEL C, STOBBE CHARACTERIZED GDR REFUSAL TO
ADMIT KOHL TO EAST BERLIN AS REFLECTING THE UNCERTAINTY
OF THE GDR'S LEADERSHIP VIS A VIS ITS OWN POPULACE.
HE WENT ON TO CHARGE THE GDR WITH TREADING A "DANGEROUS

PATH" WHICH CAN ONLY BE SEEN AS ENDANGERING DETENTE, AND WHICH "THREATENS ALL EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GERMAN STATES." STOBBE ALSO STRESSED THAT THE 3 DEMOCRATIC PARTIES IN WEST BERLIN STOOD SOLIDLY TOGETHER IN SUPPORT OF WEST BERLIN'S RIGHTS. AT THE SAME TIME, STOBBE REJECTED CDU SUGGESTION THAT THE WEST SHOULD REPAY THE GDR TIT FOR TAT. SUCH A COURSE, STOBBE NOTED, COULD QUICKLY LEAD TO "DANGEROUS DEVELOPMENTS." A BETTER COURSE OF ACTION IS TO RESPOND TO THE GDR ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL.

2. ASKED WHETHER HE FELT THE GDR ACTION HAD VIOLATED THE BASIC TREATY BETWEEN THE FRG AND GDR, STOBBE RESPONDED INDIRECTLY, BUT IN THE NEGATIVE, ADDING HOWEVER, THAT THE RIGHTS OF "HOLDERS OF FRG PASSPORTS" TO ENTER EAST BERLIN GOES BACK TO THE JESSUP-MALIK AGREEMENT WHICH ENDED THE BERLIN BLOCKADE IN 1949.

3. ASKED WHY HE APPEARED TO OPPOSE THREE-PARTY DISCUSSIONS ON BERLIN TO WORK OUT A "COMMON ALL-PARTY POLICY" ON BASIC BERLIN QUESTIONS, STOBBE REPLIED HE DID NOT IN FACT OPPOSE SUCH TALKS. IT APPEARED TO HIM, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WERE NO BASIC DIFFERENCES AMONG THE THREE BERLIN DEMOCRATIC PARTIES ON BASIC ISSUES, AND EVEN WERE SUCH TALKS DEEMED NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE THEY SHOULD ONLY BE HELD, IN THE GOVERNING MAYOR'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 USBERL 00189 251123Z

OPINION, FOLLOWING CAREFUL PREPARATION: "ONE JUST DOESN'T HAVE THE THREE PARTY LEADERS DROP IN ON THE GOVERNING MAYOR FOR A CHAT OVER COFFEE AND THEN ISSUE DECLARATIONS ON BERLIN AT THE CONCLUSION."

4. COMMENT: DURING THE BERLIN HOUSE DEBATE ON THE KOHL INCIDENT TWO DAYS LATER (REFTEL C), STOBBE WAS AGAIN ATTACKED BY THE OPPOSITION CDU FOR HIS REFUSAL TO MEET WITH IT TO DISCUSS BASIC BERLIN ISSUES. WHAT THE CDU WANTED, IT THEN BECAME CLEAR, WERE TALKS TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A COMMON LINE OF RESPONSE TO GDR AND SOVIET ACTIONS DIRECTED AGAINST WEST BERLIN. UNDER CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL PRESSURE, STOBBE AGREED ON JANUARY 20 TO ISSUE AN INVITATION FOR 3-PARTY TALKS PREDICATED ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY WOULD OCCUR ONLY FOLLOWING THOROUGH PREPARATORY WORK. END COMMENT.

5. QUESTIONED ON LOCAL COMMUNAL TOPICS, STOBBE ALTERNATED BETWEEN SPEECH MAKING (SENAT'S ACHIEVEMENTS DURING HIS FIRST EIGHT MONTHS IN OFFICE), EVASION (HOUSING POLICIES - "THE EXPERT OPINION WON'T BE IN FOR THREE MONTHS, SO I'LL RESERVE MY OPINION."

AND ABRUPT REFUSALS TO ANSWER (WHETHER THE SENAT WILL
INSIST ON INSTALLING TIME CLOCKS FOR CIVIL SERVANTS
TO PUNCH.)

6. COMMENT: DEPUTY SENAT PRESS SPOKESMAN JORG HENSCHERL
(FDP) SUBSEQUENTLY EXPLAINED TO MISOFF THAT THIS PAR-
TICULAR ANNUAL KICK OFF PRESS CONFERENCE IS SOMETHING
OF A RITUAL PERFORMANCE AT WHICH THE RULES OF CONDUCT
DO NOT ALLOW THE PRESS THE LUXURY OF NAILING THE
GOVERNING MAYOR TO WALL SIMPLY BECAUSE HE IS UNWILLING
TO ANSWER QUESTIONS. EVEN SO, MISSION OFFICERS WHO
OBSERVED PERFORMANCE WAS IMPRESSED THAT STOBBE WAS
CLEARLY IN COMMAND THROUGHOUT THE PRESS CONFERENCE,
A FACT WHICH CONTINUES TO BE REFLECTED IN THE GENERALLY
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 USBERL 00189 251123Z

POSITIVE PRESS COVERAGE GIVEN HIM AND HIS SENAT.
END COMMENT.GEORGE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USBERL00189
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780037-1063
Format: TEL
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780122/aaaaasis.tel
Line Count: 138
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b34d09e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USBERLIN 135, 78 USBERLIN 118, 78 USBERLIN 166
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3713639
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STOBBE'S ANNUAL PRESS CONFERENCE
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, WB
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbs://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b34d09e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014